

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049727

FOLL SENT ACTION LUSAKA LONDON PRETORIA FROM SECSTATE 17 MARCH 73
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049727

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, EAID, ZA, US

REF: LUSAKA 401

SUBJ: CHONA/ LISHOMWA WASHINGTON VISIT

PRETORIA FOR EMBASSY; LONDON FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM

1. SUMMARY: GRZ PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORS MARK CHONA AND LISHOMWA LISHOMWA SPENT THREE WORKING DAYS IN WASHINGTON (MARCH 12 THRU 14) DURING WHICH ONE OR BOTH VISITORS MET WITH, INTER ALIA, ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM, AF/ E, AF/ S, AID, EXIM, IBRD AND IMF. CONTACTS IN DEPARTMENT WERE USEFUL TO US AND SEEMED SATISFY VISITORS.

2. CHONA AND LISHOMWA HAD ONE- HOUR SESSION MARCH 12 WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM, AF/ E DIRECTOR, ZAMBIA COUNTRY OFFICER, AID EAST AFRICAN DIRECTOR AND ZAMBIAN EMBASSY DCM. ZAMBIANS TOLD NEWSOM: (A) PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAS MADE CONSCIOUS DECISION SEEK CLOSER MORE COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH UNITED STATES.(B) ZAMBIAN DECISION TO CEASE USE OF RHODESIAN TRANSIT FACILITIES
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FIRM. (C) GRZ ITSELF PLANS CARRY OUT MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION TASKS RESULTING FROM TRADE ROUTE REORIENTATION PROGRAM. (D) ALTHOUGH IN FIRST WEEK OR TEN DAYS AFTER JANUARY RHODESIAN BORDER CLOSURE GRZ HAD HOPED FOR EARLY RETURN TO USE OF RHODESIAN ROUTE, IT HAD BECOME CONVINCED

THAT EACH TIME ACTIVITIES WITHIN RHODESIAN BORDERS OF LIBERATION GROUPS CREATED POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES FOR SMITH REGIME, RHODESIA WOULD BLAME ITS PROBLEMS ON GRZ AND RESORT TO BORDER CLOSURE, LANDMINES, ETC. THEREFORE ZAMBIA HAD DECIDED DESPITE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES DECISION CREATED, TO CUT TRADE LINKS WITH RHODESIA NOW RATHER THAN AWAIT COMPLETION OF TANZAM ROAD AND RAILROAD. (E) GRZ HOPED USG COULD ASSIST ZAMBIA IN CURRENT EMERGENCY SITUATION.

3. NEWSOM REPLIED THAT UNITED STATES HAD GREAT RESPECT FOR KAUNDA AND CONTINUING INTEREST IN ZAMBIA. VISIT BY SECRETARY IN 1970 HAD BEEN TANGIBLE EVIDENCE THIS RESPECT AND INTEREST. HE SAID THAT WE HOPED WE COULD HELP ZAMBIA IN CURRENT SITUATION BUT THAT THERE SOME PRACTICAL PROBLEMS WHICH HE BELIEVED NOT INSURMOUNTABLE. THESE PROBLEMS WERE: (A) NEED FOR BETTER ECONOMIC DATA ON ZAMBIA WHICH WE HOPED OBTAIN FROM IBRD AND IMF ASSESSMENTS, (B) FACT THAT ZAMBIA HAD NOT BEEN AID RECIPIENT IN RECENT YEARS CREATED NEED FOR CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS, (C) NEED TO ASSURE THAT LARGE SCALE ASSISTANCE BEING REQUESTED OF VARIOUS DONORS BY ZAMBIA WOULD BE EFFECTIVELY COORDINATED AND ADMINISTERED , (D) AVAILABILITY AID FUNDING EXTREMELY LIMITED THIS YEAR AND THERE MUCH COMPETITIVE PRESSURE ON WHAT MONEY IS AVAILABLE. ASSISTANT SECRETARY CITED U. S. ASSISTANCE FOR TANZAM, BOTZAM AND MALAWI ROADS AS CLEAR EVIDENCE OUR AWARENESS AND SUPPORT FOR ZAMBIAN NEED TO REDUCE ITS VULNERABILITY TO POLITICALLY- MOTIVATED RHODESIAN DISRUPTION TRADE ROUTES. (DEPARTMENT POUCHING UNCLEARED MEMCON.) DCM SIYOLWE LATER TOLD DEPOFF THAT CHONA AND LISHOMWA WERE PLEASED WITH CANDID EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

4. SUBSEQUENTLY CHONA MET WITH AF/ E AND AF/ S DIRECTORS FOR SESSION ON RHODESIA. CHONA INDICATED GRZ BELIEVES THAT SMITH' S POSITION HAS SERIOUSLY DETERIORATED. HE SAID THAT PRESENCE OF SAG FORCES OF MORE BENEFIT TO
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SMITH AS PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT THAN SECURITY MEASURE.

CHONA PLAYED USUAL ZAMBIAN THEME THAT USG POTENTIAL FOR
INFLUENCING SAG AND GOP TOWARD CHANGE IS GREAT AND
SHOULD BE EXERCISED. AF/E AND AF/S DIRECTORS ATTEMPTED
CORRECT SOME OF CHONA'S MISAPPREHENSIONS, PARTICULARLY
REGARDING DEGREE OF INFLUENCE OF USG UPON SAG AND GOP
BUT IT DOUBTFUL CHONA ACCEPTED THEIR POINTS.

5. LISHOMWA HAD MEETING ON MARCH 14

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